(b) the quantity of rice released from Central Pool for these families during the last two years and actually lifted by the State during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to give concession in rates of rice being supplied to the Below Poverty Line families of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As per report received from the State Government, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has identified 113.60 lakh BPL families much above the number accepted by the Government. Subsidised foodgrains for the families in excess is distributed by the State Government of its own resources.

(b) The quantity of rice released from the Central Pool for BPL population and actually lifted by the State during the last two years are as under:—

(in '000 tonnes)

Year	Allocation	Offtake
1999-2000	453.360	433.570
2000-2001 (Provisional)	1316.648	923.047

(c) The Central Issue Price (CIPs) of wheat and rice for BPL families were revised downwards with effect from 25.7.2000. There is no proposal at present to reduce the price of rice being supplied for BPL population.

Procurement of wheat in Punjab and Haryana

3367. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana in the months of March, April and May in the years 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(b) the quantity thereof released for PDS in these two States during the following ten months in 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(c) the extent of damage/shortage reported during the said period; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The quantity of wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana during the months of March, April and May, 1998, 1999 and 2000 is as follows:—

(Fig. in Lakh Tonnes)

State	1998			1999			2000		
	March	April	May	March	April	May	March	April	May
Haryana	-	17.01	13.66	-	33.25	5.39	-	27.58	16.11
Punjab	-	36.19	24.61	-	61.79	16.39	-	62.73	29.86

(b) The quantity of wheat released for PDS in these two States during the following ten months in 1998, 1999 and 2000 is as under:—

(Fig. in '000 Tonnes)

Month	Punjab			Haryana		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. June	0.28	0.00	0.39	5.70	7.56	3.25
2. July	0.40	0.20	0.58	6.11	6.14	3.58
3. August	0.98	0.35	0.53	6.94	8.01	4.01
4. Sept.	1.27	0.54	1.52	5.22	5.86	3.26
5. Oct.	0.54	0.00	0.78	7.00	7.26	3.46
6. Nov.	1.01	0.00	0.78	8.40	7.36	4.36
7. Dec.	0.74	0.19	0.80	9.74	7.22	3.51
8. Jan.	1.22	0.00	2.36	9.34	8.15	4.43
9. Feb.	0.72	0.21	0.79	4.65	6.44	4.78
10. March	1.03	0.29	3.50	4.07	7.31	4.61

(c) There was no damage/storage loss in wheat in Punjab and Haryana.

(d) The following measures have been taken by Government to reduce the losses:—

(i) Adoption of 50 Kg. packing in a phased manner.

(ii) Improvement in size and quality of gunnies.

(iii) Encouraging machine stitching of bags.

(iv) Double line machine stitching of bags.

(v) Installation of weigh bridges.

(vi) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise check, ensuring regular stock verification etc.

(vii) Induction of CISF at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage.

(viii) Not to place godowns under the charge of officials whose antecedents are doubtful.

(ix) Streamlining procedure and documentation for prompt investigation and fixing responsibility Inspection of depots by Senior Regional Manager and District Managers.

(x) Speed up of write off cases and fixation of responsibility wherever called for.

(xi) Inspection of depots by Senior Regional Manager and District Managers.

Post Harvest Losses

3368. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of post harvest losses in Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to identify the causes;

(c) if so, the remedial action taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, whether it is possible to indicate the date for preparing an action plan for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The State-wise exact quantum of foodgrain losses during post harvest period at farm level due to insects, rodents, moisture, birds, micro-organisms, etc. including State of Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh is not known. However, a Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse, in its report submitted in 1968 had estimated annual post harvest losses in the foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%. These included losses during threshing